REMARKS

Independent claim 23 and its dependent claims 24-40;

independent claim 41 and its dependent claims 42-44;

independent claim 45 and its dependent claims 46-61;

independent claim 62 and its dependent claims 63-65;

independent claim 66 and its dependent claims 67-69;

independent claim 70 and its dependent claims 71-76; and

independent claims 77-79 are presented. Enclosed is our check in the amount of $1,134.00

to cover thirty five (35) extra dependent claims and six (6) extra independent claims.

The new claims have been prepared to avoid the indefiniteness objections

raised by the Examiner against the original claims. On the merits, the original claims were

rejected as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,011,802 to Norman. Yet, a careful reading of

Norman reveals that it relates to a completely different problem. Whereas applicant's claims

are directed to a method for the transmission of data, Norman (see col. 1, lines 6-10) is

directed to a method of conversion of communications signals between ITU type SDH and

SONET formats, i.e., Norman is addressing a completely different problem to that addressed

by the present invention.

Turning now to Fig. 4 of Norman, there is shown a communications system

comprising both an ITU type SDH Network and a SONET Network. In the description of

Fig. 4 at cols. 8-10, we find the communications system comprising an ITU type SDH CPE

(160) and a SONET CPE (162) connected via a gateway converter (164). As set out at col. 10, lines 18-53, the gateway converter converts ITU type SDH communication signals to SONET communications signals and vice versa. *However, there is no reference in this section of Norman to the virtually concatenated information structure of the present claims.* The only reference to concatenation that can be found in Norman is at col. 10, line 45. As is explained in the introduction to the present application, there is more than one form of concatenation. However, there is no indication in Norman as to what form of concatenation he is referring to. In fact, there is *no* disclosure whatsoever of virtual concatenation in Norman.

This conclusion is confirmed when examining Fig. 9 of Norman which shows the gateway (164) in more detail. The relevant parts of the gateway would appear to be the path overhead translator (204) and the SONET/SDH converter (208). The converter is described at col. 15, lines 5-12. No reference to a concatenated signal can be found in this detailed description.

The POH translator is described at col. 14, lines 53-58. Further information on the processing of the HO POH (whether in ITU or SONET form) is given at col. 15, lines 32-39. From this description it is evident that the HO POH is changed in order to convert the signal from SONET to ITU SDH or vice versa and *not* in relation to any concatenation operation.

All claims 23-79 are therefore novel in the light of the cited prior art.

Advantageously, the claimed invention allows the transport of higher bandwidth signals across SDH networks, whether ITU or SONET, which do not support contiguously concatenated SDH signals.

Petition is hereby made for a three-month extension of the period to respond to the outstanding Official Action to November 23, 2001. A check in the amount of $920.00, as the Petition fee, is enclosed herewith. If there are any additional charges, or any overpayment, in connection with the filing of the amendment, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any such deficiency, or credit any such overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 11-1145.

Wherefore, a favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

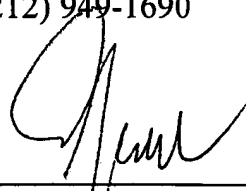KIRSCHSTEIN, OTTINGER, ISRAEL & SCHIFFMILLER, P.C.
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